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Charles W. Stewart
Date: July 14, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
)
BERNARDINUS H. BOSMANS, JOSE L. BRAVO,)
GERRIT KONIJN, and KAREL A. KUSTERS)
)
Serial No. 09/757,886)
)
Filed January 10, 2001)
)
GAS-LIQUID CONTACTING TRAY)
_____)

Group Art Unit: 1724
Examiner: Charles S. Bushey
July 14, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

This communication is in response to the Examiner's Advisory Action mailed June 25, 2003 in which the Examiner denied the entry of Applicants' proposed amendment that was filed contemporaneously with Appellants' Appeal Brief on the alleged grounds that the Amendment raises new issues and does not place the application in better form for appeal.

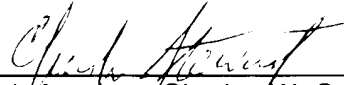
Applicants respectfully suggest that the proposed amendment does not raise new issues and that it actually places the application in a better form for appeal. The proposed amendment to independent claim 7 is the same as the amendment made to the corresponding language of independent claim 1. In the Examiner's final office action, he indicates that the anticipation rejection of claims 7 and 8 is maintained because claim 7 was not amended as was claim 1. The same amendment of a similar claim therefore should not result in raising a new

issue. Moreover, as the Examiner suggested, such an amendment to claim 7 would obviate the anticipation rejection thereof thereby removing an issue from appeal.

If the Examiner fails to find the above remarks persuasive, Applicants still wish to proceed with their Appeal without the entry of the proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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